

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-15 FILE-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 IO-12

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 EUR-25 /105 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ ARN: EPDJEREJIAN: DAKORN: JMP

4/20/73 EXT 21019

APPROVED BY NEA: ALATHERTON

IO/ UNP - MR. STULL

S/ S: HGBARNES, JR.

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O 202217 Z APR 73 ZFF5

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075051

TODEP 123 ZFF5 NEW DELHI ONLY

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, LE, IS

SUBJ: SC MEETING ON BEIRUT RAID

REF: (A) STATE 74568, (B) BEIRUT 4646

NEW DELHI FOR SISCO

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON CALLED IN LEBAN-
ESE AMBASSADOR KABBANI MORNING APRIL 20 TO CONVEY TO HIM
USG POSITION REFTEL (A) AND SUBSTANCE OF AMBASSADOR
BUFFUM' S TALKS WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND FOREIGN MINISTER
AS PER REFTEL (B).

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2. FOLLOWING ATHERTON'S REVIEW OF CABLES AND CURRENT STATE OF PLAY KABBANI SAID IT HAD BEEN GOL HOPE THAT CHANGES MADE IN ORIGINAL LEBANESE DRAFT RESOLUTION WOULD PERMIT US TO ABSTAIN. ATHERTON EMPHASIZED US WOULD HAVE TO VETO UK/ FRENCH DRAFT, WHICH, HE NOTED, IS WORSE THAN TEXT WE VETOED LAST SEPTEMBER. ATHERTON SAID USG POSITION ARRIVED AT AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION ALL FACTORS AND HAD APPROVAC AT HIGH LEVEL. KABBANI COMMENTED THAT CHANGES IN UK/ FRENCH TEXT WHICH USG IS PROPOSING PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE

ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF UNSC AND ESPECIALLY ARAB DELEGATIONS. THEREFORE, HE THOUGHT ADJOURNMENT IS PROBABLY BEST OUTCOME WE COULD EXPECT. ATHERTON STRESSED IMPORTANCE THAT GOL, AS MEMBER STATE WHICH CALLED FOR UNSC MEETING, ENERGETICALLY TRY TO CONVINCE OTHER MEMBERS NOT RPT NOT TO PRESS FOR A VOTE ON RESOLUTION IF CHANGES US PROPOSED CANNOT BE INCORPORATED INTO DRAFT RESOLUTION. KABBANI SAID IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE ARAB DELEGATIONS AND ESPECIALLY EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ZAYYAT. HOWEVER, GOL WILL PROBABLY TRY TO GET ZAYYAT NOT TO PRESS FOR VOTE, AND, IF SO, HE IN TURN CAN HELP INFLUENCE OTHER DELEGATIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR KABBANI UNDERTOOK TO REITERATE USG POSITION TO AMBASSADOR GHORRA IN NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY AND SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED TO DEPT OFF THAT HE HAD DONE SO.

4. FOLLOWING SUBSEQUENT TELCON WITH AMB. BUFFUM, ATHERTON TELEPHONED KABBANI TO TELL HIM FONMIN ABOUHAMAD HAD ASKED AMB. BUFFUM TO CONFIRM TO DEPT THAT FONMIN'S INSTRUCTION TO GHORRA STILL STANDS, I. E. THAT IF MODIFICATIONS CANNOT BE OBTAINED IN UK/ FRENCH DRAFT GHORRA SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GET ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT VOTE. KABBANI SAID HE HAD SPOKEN ON PHONE TO GHORRA AND LATTER WAS FULLY APPRISED OF FONMIN'S INSTRUCTIONS. ATHERTON SAID NEW POSITION WHICH FONMIN HAD CONVEYED TO AMB. BUFFUM

IS THAT IF IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GET ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT A VOTE GHORRA SHOULD ASK UK AND FRENCH TO WITHDRAW THEIR DRAFT, ON ASSUMPTION THAT NON- ALIGNEDS WOULD THEN PRESENT A MORE EXTREME DRAFT. GOL WOULD PREFER TO SEE USG VETO A MORE EXTREME
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DRAFT, FOLLOWING WHICH GOL WOULD STATE IT WISHES TO PURSUE

EFFORT TO FORMULATE A RESOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO SC BUT
ASK FOR ADJOURNMENT WHILE WORK IS PROCEEDING IN THIS
DIRECTION. AMB. KABBANI SAID HE WOULD CONVEY FOREGOING
TO GHORRA. PORTER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE075051
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EPDJEREJIAN: DAKORN: JMP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730448/aaaaitpe.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 74568, 73 BEIRUT 4646
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980127
Subject: SC MEETING ON BEIRUT RAID
TAGS: AORG, IS, LE, UNSC
To: BEIRUT
LONDON
NEW DELHI
PARIS
TEL AVIV
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005